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July 30, 2018

The Honorable Ajit Pai  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

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Dear Chairman Pai:

I write regarding the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) upcoming Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) related to the reimbursement of TV translator stations for costs incurred in relocating their television service due to the TV Incentive Auction, and its potential impact on my constituents in Mohave County.

As you may know, Mohave County is a large and sparsely-populated county in the northwestern region of Arizona. The county encompasses over 13,000 square miles and has just over 200,000 residents. Because of its remoteness, the county's board of supervisors made a determination decades ago to maintain a system of television translators to import distant signals from Phoenix and Las Vegas. Many of the residents in this area are retirees on fixed incomes. For these and numerous other county residents, the television service provided by the county's network of 46 translators is the only source of television programming and emergency alerts.

The Commission's reduction in Ultra High Frequency channels available for TV translators may leave displaced translator licensees without adequate channel capacity to effect relocation of their television service. However, it is my understanding that microwave relay stations can help avoid disruption and remedy the issue. I encourage you to take this into consideration when finalizing the NPRM.

As always, I ask that this matter be handled in strict accordance with existing agency rules, regulations, and ethical guidelines.

Sincerely,



JEFF FLAKE

United States Senator

<http://www.Flake.senate.gov>

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

November 13, 2018

The Honorable Jeff Flake  
United States Senate  
413 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Flake:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's recent action to commence a rulemaking regarding the reimbursement of relocation costs for certain TV translator stations due to the broadcast spectrum incentive auction. I understand the important service that TV translator stations provide to rural areas in the United States, including Mohave County, Arizona.

In the rulemaking, the Commission proposes to reimburse low power TV and TV translator stations in a way that is substantially similar to the process we are using to reimburse full power and Class A licensees. The Commission has also tentatively concluded that "reasonably incurred" costs would include the equipment and other costs necessary for an eligible station to construct a new facility on a newly-granted displacement channel. And as with the full power and Class A reimbursement process, reimbursement costs are limited to replacing existing equipment and features needed as a result of the relocation process. The Incentive Auction Task Force and Media Bureau have compiled a cost catalog for use by these new reimbursement-eligible licensees and is currently seeking comment on the types of equipment and costs proposed therein.

I understand that Mohave County has already filed comments in our rulemaking proceeding and we have made their comments a part of the record. I encourage Mohave County to also submit comments on the Commission's proposals in the cost catalog. A fulsome record is the best way for the Commission to make the appropriate decisions to implement the Reimbursement Expansion Act.

Your views are important and will be entered into the record of the proceeding. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ajit V. Pai".

Ajit V. Pai